

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CU-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 OMB-01

CIEP-03 /102 W

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P R 201532Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2699

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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USIA FOR IBS

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJ: LETTER PUBLISHED ON EXHIBIT AFFAIR

REF: MOSCOW 14201 AND PREVIOUS

1. TWICE-WEEKLY NATIONAL CULTURAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED  
BY CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA, CARRIES  
FIRST PRESS COMMENT SEPTEMBER 20 ON ART EXHIBIT  
AFFAIR IN LETTER SIGNED BY FOUR RESIDENTS OF REGION WHERE  
INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. LETTER CLAIMS INTER ALIA THAT  
SUNDAY VOLUNTEER WORK AT SITE WAS PLANNED WELL IN  
ADVANCE; THAT WORKERS WERE SURPRISED WHEN "UNKEMPT PEOPLE"  
BEGAN TO SET UP PICTURES IN FIELD; THAT ARTISTS ACTED  
"PROVOCATIVELY", TRYING TO FORCE WORKERS FROM FIELD,  
USING FOUL LANGUAGE AND HINDERING TRAFFIC; THAT  
FOREIGNERS IN CARS FROM "CAPITALIST EMBASSIES" ARRIVED  
WITH ARTISTS AND EVEN DELIVERED SOME OF THE PICTURES;  
AND THAT FOREIGN JOURNALISTS MIXED IN, WITH ONE  
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(ALLEGEDLY AFTENPOSTEN'S UDGAARD) STRIKING A "MILITIA

HELPER" IN THE FACE.

2. LETTER CALLS ABORTED EXHIBIT AN "INTENTIONAL POLITICAL PROVOCATION", CLAIMS THAT MILITIA AND "HELPERS" WERE CALLED IN AT REQUEST OF SUNDAY WORKERS, AND SAYS ARTISTS WHO ACTED PARTICULARLY "OBSCENELY" WERE TAKEN TO LOCAL MILITIA STATION "FOR IDENTIFICATION". CLAIM ALSO MADE THAT ARTISTS CHOSE TO IGNORE CITY AND ARTISTS UNION "EXPLANATIONS" OF REGULATIONS FOR STAGING EXHIBITS. LETTER MOCKS ARTISTS SAYING THEY CREATED A MARKET FOR THEIR WORKS ABROAD BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT TALENTED ENOUGH TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, AND ACCUSES THEM OF "SHAMELESS SPECULATION." LETTER ENDS BY DEMANDING THAT ARTISTS AND THEIR "FOREIGN FRIENDS AND PATRONS" RESPECT SOVIET LAW AND SOCIAL ORDER.

3. COMMENT: PUBLICATION OF LETTER INDICATES THAT AUTHORITIES RECOGNIZE STORY OF EXHIBIT AFFAIR IS GETTING OUT VIA FOREIGN RADIOS AND WORD OF MOUTH AND ESTABLISHES OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE FRACAS, WITHOUT REVEALING THE VIOLENCE THAT TOOK PLACE. IT IS A CLEAR WARNING TO ARTISTS NOT TO TRY AGAIN AND ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH LINK IN THE "PROVOCATION" BETWEEN ARTISTS AND WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND NEWSMEN.

DUBS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARTS, PRESS COMMENTS, EXHIBITS, PHOTOGRAPHY, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** MOSCOW 14201 AND PREVIOUS  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LETTER PUBLISHED ON EXHIBIT AFFAIR  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005